



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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April 9, 2003

To: State Board of Health Members
From: Don Sloma, Executive Director
Re: **GOVERNOR LOCKE'S PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH**

Summary

Governor Locke's 2003-2005 proposed biennial budget was developed using an innovative process to identify the "Priorities of Government". After a government-wide assessment determined a set of results the citizens expect from government, the process reprioritized state spending to focus on the services thought to matter most in achieving those goals. The resultant priorities were

- Improve student achievement in elementary, middle and high schools
- Improve the quality and productivity of our workforce
- Improve the value of a state college or university education
- ***Improve the health of Washington citizens***
- Improve the security of Washington's vulnerable children and adults
- Improve the economic vitality of businesses and individuals
- Improve statewide mobility of people, goods, information and energy
- Improve the safety of people and property
- Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources
- Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

Public health programs and medical care programs targeted to children fared well in this prioritization. As a result, Governor Locke's proposed budget reduced these programs far less than other health and medical programs, providing essentially current level state funding for them. This budget and the revenue proposals that support it constitute one option now under consideration by the legislature.

An overview of the Governor's proposed budget, particularly those sections related to improving the health of children, is attached.

Wolfgang Opitz, Budget Director for Governor Locke's Office of Financial Management is with us today to review the Priorities of Government Process and to answer questions about its implications for public health programs in the coming biennium.

Suggested Board Action:

None.